

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08

FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-07 CEA-01 L-03 H-01 DODE-00 PA-01 PM-05 /113 W

-----109139 251111Z /20

R 250345Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 321

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2306

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EEWT, EARL, EFIS, CB, SN

SUBJ: CAMBODIAN-SINGAPORE TRADE

REF: HONG KONG 6527

1. AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED RECENT SINGAPORE TRADE MISSION TO CAMBODIA WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR GASSEAU IN COURSE OF MAY 24 FAREWELL CALL ON HIM. GASSEAU HAD BEEN BRIEFED ON MISSION BY SINGAPORE MFA PERMSEC CHIA CHEONG FOOK. ACCOUNT HE RECEIVED CLOSELY PARALLELED THAT REPORTED PARA ONE REFTEL. AS GASSEAU EXPLAINED IT, HOWEVER, TRADE RELATIONSHIP WOULD BE OPENED BY DESPATCH OF SINGAPORE VESSEL OR VESSELS TO KAMPONG SOM, WHERE THEY WOULD PICK UP CAMBODIAN EXPORT COMMODITIES. GOODS WOULD BE BROUGHT TO SINGAPORE AND SOLD ON OPEN MARKET HERE. PROCEEDS FROM SALE WOULD THEN BE CREDITED TO CAMBODIAN ACCOUNTS IN SINGAPORE BANKS, AND WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO
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CAMBODIANS TO PURCHASE GOODS HERE. THESE GOODS PRESUMABLY WOULD BE TAKEN TO KAMPONG SOM IN SINGAPORE BOTTOMS AND WHOLE PROCESS REPEATED.

2. GASSEAU CONFIRMED THAT CAMBODIANS DID NOT HAVE EITHER RICE OR RUBBER TO SELL TO SINGAPORZWANS. WXAILABLE RICE, AND PERHAPS RUBBER AS WELL, HAS

APPARENTLY BEEN COMMITTED TO THE PRC.

3. GASSEAU ALSO SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER LEE KWAN YEW WOULD BE VISITING PARIS IN SEPTEMBER IN ADDITION TO HIS VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA. (COMMENT: POSSIBLE THAT LEE MIGHT PROCEED DIRECTLY TO U.S. FROM EUROPE FOR PROJECTED PRIVATE VISIT IN OCTOBER. WHILE LEE USUALLY PREFERS TO AVOID NEW YORK AREA DURING UNGA SESSIONS, HE MIGHT FOLLOW PAST PRACTICE OF SPENDING WEEK OR SO IN CAMBRIDGE IF NECESSARY TO KILL SOME TIME BEFORE HIS OCTOBER APPOINTMENTS IN U.S.
HOLDRIDGE

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